

NEWS RELEASE

**Honey Production
February 28, 2003**

NORTH DAKOTA HONEY PRODUCTION

North Dakota

Honey production in 2002 from North Dakota producers with five or more colonies totaled 24 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2001. This is according to a survey of the State's beekeepers by the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. North Dakota regained its first place position in total honey production, ahead of California, which produced 23.3 million pounds.

There were 320,000 honey producing colonies in North Dakota during 2002, up 40,000 from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 75 pounds, down from 96 pounds in 2001. The highest yield on record was 142 pounds in 1972.

Producer honey stocks were 8.16 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down from 9.41 million pounds a year earlier. Prices for the 2002 crop averaged 142 cents per pound, up from 69 cents in 2001. Prices were based on sales to private processors and cooperatives and retail sales by producers.

United States

Honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2002 to 128.6 cents, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. Some 2001 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2002, which caused some revisions to the 2001 crop prices.

For More Information Contact:

*Doug Hartwig, State Statistician, North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service ■ NDSU, IACC 448 ■ 701-239-5306
E-mail: nass-nd@nass.usda.gov ■ Internet: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/>*

HONEY PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON HAND

State ^{1/}	Producing Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Stocks on Hand Dec. 15 ^{2/}		Average Price Per Pound		Value of Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	--1,000 --		-- Pounds --		-- 1,000 Pounds --				-- Cents --		- 1,000 Dollars -	
NORTH DAKOTA	280	320	96	75	26,880	24,000	9,408	8,160	69	142	18,547	34,080
California	425	440	65	53	27,625	23,320	7,735	3,498	69	129	19,061	30,083
Florida	220	220	100	93	22,000	20,460	3,432	2,026	64	112	14,080	22,915
Minnesota	135	117	81	73	10,935	8,541	1,859	1,110	65	142	7,108	12,128
Montana	136	134	102	63	13,872	8,442	4,578	1,097	67	135	9,294	11,397
South Dakota	235	225	65	51	15,275	11,475	12,220	2,410	71	140	10,845	16,065
UNITED STATES	2,506	2,524	74.0	67.8	185,461	171,140	64,556	39,047	70.4	128.6	132,225	221,638

1/ Published are a few selected states from the National release. 2/ Held by producers.

February 28, 2003

~ Compiled and Published by ~



N.D. Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA P.O. Box 3166, Fargo, ND 58108-3166 701-239-5306
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